

## CLAIMS

- 1 1. A feeding and aspirating tube assembly comprising:
  - 2 a first outer aspirating tube; and
  - 3 a second inner feeding tube;
- 4 wherein the second inner feeding tube is removably disposed inside the first outer
- 5 aspirating tube.
  
- 1 2. The feeding tube assembly of claim 1, wherein the outer tube fits loosely around
- 2 the inner tube to permit aspiration while the inner tube is disposed inside the outer tube.
  
- 1 3. The feeding tube assembly of claim 1, wherein in an assembled state, a distal end
- 2 of the inner tube is in a range from approximately 2 cm to approximately 4 cm from a
- 3 distal end of the outer tube.
  
- 1 4. The feeding tube assembly of claim 3, further comprising:
  - 2 at least one feeding tube opening in the inner tube; and
  - 3 wherein the at least one feeding opening is located in a range from approximately
  - 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  cm to approximately 3 cm from the distal end of the outer tube.
  
- 1 5. The feeding tube assembly of claim 4, further comprising a plurality of feeding
- 2 tube openings including the at least one feeding tube opening, wherein a most distal one
- 3 of the feeding tube openings is in a range from approximately 2 cm to approximately 3
- 4 cm from the distal end of the outer tube.
  
- 1 6. The feeding tube assembly of claim 4, further comprising a plurality of feeding
- 2 tube openings including the at least one feeding tube opening, wherein a most proximal
- 3 one of the feeding tube openings is located in a range from approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  cm to
- 4 approximately 2 cm from the distal end of the outer tube.

1      7.      The feeding tube assembly of claim 1, wherein:  
2              the outer tube further comprises an external end; and  
3              the external end of the outer tube has a plurality of input branches.

1      8.      The feeding tube assembly of claim 7, wherein the inner tube further comprises an  
2              external end having an adapter that seals a selected one of the input branches and  
3              provides an input opening of the inner tube external to the selected branch.

1      9.      The feeding tube assembly of claim 8, wherein the input opening of the inner tube  
2              fluidly connects an exterior of the assembly with a rest of the inner tube through the  
3              selected branch.

1      10.     The feeding tube assembly of claim 1, wherein the outer diameter of the inner  
2              tube is in a range from approximately 1 mm to approximately 3 mm.

1      11.     The feeding tube assembly of claim 1, wherein the outer diameter of the outer  
2              tube is in a range from approximately 3 mm to approximately 6 mm.

1      12.     A method of feeding and aspirating comprising:  
2              inserting an inner tube through an outer tube;  
3              sealing an external end of the inner tube relative an external end of the outer tube;  
4              placing the combination inner tube and outer tube in the jejunum of a patient;  
5              feeding from externally of the patient through the inner tube to the jejunum of the  
6              patient; and  
7              aspirating from the jejunum through the outer tube.

1       13.    The method of feeding and aspirating of claim 12, wherein:  
2               the step of feeding comprises feeding for a first predetermined period of time after  
3       an operation;  
4               the method of feeding and aspirating further comprises:  
5                       removing the inner tube from the outer tube after the first predetermined  
6       period of time; and  
7                       feeding through one of the outer tube and another separate feeding tube.

1       14.    The method of feeding and aspirating of claim 12 wherein:  
2               the step of feeding further comprises feeding for a first predetermined period of  
3       time after an operation;  
4               the method of feeding and aspirating further comprises:  
5                       removing the inner tube from the outer tube after the first predetermined  
6       period of time; and  
7                       feeding and aspirating through the outer tube after the first predetermined  
8       period of time.